

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Summary of Klamath Project December 2012 Operations

The elevation of Upper Klamath Lake (UKL) increased from 4,138.48 feet on November 30th to 4,139.84 feet on December 31st. The December 31, 2012 UKL elevation is 0.35 feet lower than the elevation at the end of December 2011 (4,140.19). Total net inflows to UKL for December were 128.5 Thousand Acre Feet (TAF), which is 91% of the Natural Resource Conservation Service average of 140.9 TAF for the month.

Releases from Link River Dam averaged 543 cfs during the month. The average Iron Gate flow for December was 1,126 cfs. Consistent with the Variable Base Flow Procedure (VBF), no specific VBF releases were made downstream of Iron Gate Dam during December since the UKL elevation did not exceed the threshold of 4,142.0 feet during the month.

However, two releases were made from Iron Gate Dam during December. These pulse flow events, designed to mimic natural flow events, were triggered by flow variability guidelines based on storm systems moving into the area and projected increases in river flows. The first was from November 29 to December 7 and totaled about 9,900 acre-feet. The second was smaller, totaling about 500 acre-feet from December 18 to December 20.

Reclamation is dedicated to managing, developing, and protecting water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Reclamation, and Klamath Project stakeholders are working together to manage available water to provide benefits to basin irrigators while protecting Endangered Species Act-listed fish.